

# 36<sup>th</sup> Army Band's rock group "Ethos" tours northern California



Ethos, the 36<sup>th</sup> Army Band's Rock group, performed a recruiting tour for the 6<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Brigade from the 25<sup>th</sup> of September through the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

Ethos, which is led by lead vocalist and MOS trumpet player Sgt. Troy Allan, was formed to play current popular music including hits by Green Day, Hoobastank, Switchfoot, Blink 182, Yellow Card and many other modern rock hits. Other members of the group include Spc. Jeffrey Eastman on lead guitar, Spc. Steve Pugh, an MOS oboe player, on rhythm guitar, Sgt. Padilla on drums, Sgt. Brian Hall, an MOS French Horn player, as vocalist and sound engineer, and Spc. Arthur Tyson, an MOS tuba player, on bass.

The group's first performance was the morning of Monday September 27 at San Benito High School in Hollister, California to an energetic audience of 1,500 students. The recruiters who came with the band had over 100 students request more information about the Army. That afternoon the band performed at Bethany College in Scotts Valley, CA to an audience of around 100 music students, 80 of which requested more information about the Army.

The following day, the band performed at Leland High School in San Jose to an audience of 1,500 students, with a large number of students wanting more information about the Army. On Wednesday, the band played two shows at Piedmont High in San Jose to an audience of roughly 600. This audience was the rowdiest of the tour as they formed and impromptu "mosh pit" at the front of the stage, and several students attempted to join the band on stage.



“This was definitely the best performance of the tour,” Tyson said. “We really fed off the crowd’s energy”.

Thursday also had two performances at Sonora High with a combined audience of 2,000. These audiences were also greatly excited by the music. At one point, one of the microphones went out and the students all sang the song with the band until the problem was quickly fixed. The members of “Ethos” were all invited to the School’s barbeque picnic that afternoon.

The last performance of the tour was on Friday at Consumes River College in Elk Grove. The band was worried that no one would be there, because not a soul was seen until about 5 minutes before the start of the performance. About 100 people showed up just as the concert began. Although the audience was small compared to some of the other performances, the recruiters received about 40 leads from the small audience.

The band started home that afternoon and arrived late Saturday evening. Over the length of the tour the band traveled over 3,000 miles, performed 8 concerts for over 5,800 people and generated 470 recruiting leads for the local recruiters.

“I think that this is the direction the army band field should go in. After seeing how fired up the kids got about our rock band and how we changed their views of the army in general, this is one of the best recruiting tools in the army today,” said lead guitarist Spc. Eastman

Also accompanying the group was Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robert Comer, who is the Band’s Operations Supervisor and former Band Recruiting Liaison for the 6<sup>th</sup> Bde, and the Band’s Commander, Chief Warrant Officer Three Gary W. Dorrell, who gave several presentations about the Army and the Army Band Program to several audiences.

